

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A tugger cart for transporting a load, comprising:
a support frame having a leading end and a trailing end;
a bed having a center and being rotatably mounted to the support frame, the bed rotatable about a bed axis perpendicular to the bed and extending through the center of the bed;
a wheel assembly operatively connected to the support frame for supporting the support frame above a supporting surface;
a handle assembly slidably connected to the support frame, the handle assembly movable between a first retracted position and a second extended position;
a load support member extending from the handle assembly in a direction toward the bed, the load support member including a load support arm having an upper surface for receiving a portion of the load thereon; and
a bracing element having a first end operatively connected to the handle assembly and a second end operatively connected to the load support arm;
wherein the second end of the bracing element and the support frame define an opening therebetween so as to allow the unobstructed rotation of the bed about the axis.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The tugger cart of claim 1 wherein the handle assembly includes:
a generally horizontal leg having a first end slidably connected to the support frame and an opposite, second end;
a lower arm projecting from the leg; and
an upper arm pivotably connected to the lower arm.

4. (Original) The tugger cart of claim 3 further comprising a locking structure operatively connected to the support frame for locking the leg of the handle assembly in a user desired position.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The tugger cart of claim 3 wherein the load support arm extends upwardly from the lower arm of the handle assembly and wherein the load support member includes a retaining plate extending vertically from a terminal end of the load support arm.

8. (Original) The tugger cart of claim 1 further comprising a bed locking structure for locking the bed at a selected position on the support frame.

9. (Previously Presented) The tugger cart of claim 8 wherein the bed locking structure includes:

a retractable pin operatively connected to the support frame and being movable along a vertical pin axis between an extended position and a retracted position, the pin axis being a predetermined radial distance from the bed axis; and

a locking plate connected to the bed and having an aperture therethrough for receiving the retractable pin.

10. (Previously Presented) A tugger cart for transporting a load, comprising:
a support frame having an end;
a bed received on the support frame and rotatable about an axis;
a wheel assembly operatively connected to the support frame for supporting the support frame above a supporting surface;
a handle assembly slidably connected to the support frame adjacent the end thereof, the

handle assembly movable toward and away from the end of the support frame to a plurality of user selectable positions;

a load support member extending from the handle assembly in a direction toward the bed, the load support member including a load support arm having an upper surface for receiving a portion of the load thereon; and

a bracing element having a first end operatively connected to the handle assembly and a second end operatively connected to the load support arm;
wherein the second end of the bracing element and the support frame define an opening therebetween so as to allow the unobstructed rotation of the bed about the axis.

11. (Previously Presented) The tugger cart of claim 10 wherein the handle assembly includes:

a generally horizontal leg having a first end slidably connected to the support frame and an opposite, second end;

a lower arm projecting from the leg; and

an upper arm pivotably connected to the lower arm.

12. (Original) The tugger cart of claim 11 further comprising a locking structure operatively connected to the support frame for locking the leg of the handle assembly in one of the user selectable positions.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The tugger cart of claim 11 wherein the load support arm extends upwardly from the lower arm of the handle assembly and wherein the load support member includes a retaining plate extending vertically from a terminal end of the load support arm.

16. (Original) The tugger cart of claim 10 wherein the bed:
has a center;
lies in a generally horizontal plane; and
is rotatable on the support frame about a vertical bed axis extending through the center of the bed.

17. (Original) The tugger cart of claim 16 further comprising a bed locking structure for locking the bed at a selected position on the support frame.

18. (Previously Presented) The tugger cart of claim 17 wherein the bed locking structure includes:

a retractable pin operatively connected to the support frame and being movable along a vertical pin axis between an extended position and a retracted position, the pin axis being a predetermined radial distance from the bed axis; and

a locking plate connected to the bed and having an aperture therethrough, the aperture have a center being the predetermined distance from the bed axis.

19. (Original) The tugger cart of claim 18 wherein the locking plate includes:
a horizontal base having first and second opposite sides; and
a pair of ramp plates diverging from opposite sides of the base and interconnecting the base to a lower surface of the bed.

20. (Currently Amended) A tugger cart for transporting a load, comprising:
a support frame having an end;
a bed having a center and being rotatably mounted to the support frame, the bed rotatable about a bed axis perpendicular to the bed and extending through the center of the bed;

a retractable pin operatively connected to the support frame and being movable along a vertical pin axis between an extended position and a retracted position, the pin axis being a predetermined radial distance from the bed axis; and

a locking plate connected to the bed and having an aperture therethrough for receiving the pin in the extended position so as to maintain the bed in a predetermined position on the support frame, the aperture having a center being the predetermined distance from the bed axis; wherein the locking plate includes:

a horizontal base having first and second opposite sides, the aperture extending through the base; and

a pair of ramp plates diverging from opposite sides of the base and interconnecting the base to a lower surface of the bed;

a handle assembly slidably connected to the support frame adjacent the end thereof, the handle assembly movable toward and away from the end of the support frame to a plurality of user selectable positions and including:

a generally horizontal leg having a first end slidably connected to the support frame and an opposite, second end;

a lower arm projecting from the leg;

an upper arm pivotably connected to the lower arm; and

a load support member extending from the lower arm; and

a locking structure operatively connected to the support frame for locking the leg of the handle assembly in one of the user selectable positions;

wherein the pin is engageable with the ramp plates and the horizontal base.

21-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The tugger cart of claim 20 [24] wherein the handle assembly further includes a bracing element extending between the leg and the load support member.

26. (Currently Amended) The tugger cart of claim 20 [24] wherein the load support member includes a load supporting arm extending upwardly from the lower arm of the handle assembly and a retaining plate extending vertically from a terminal end of the load support arm.

27. (Cancelled).